

Applicant : Ernest R. Chacon
Appl. No. : 10/638,159
Examiner : Helen OK Chu
Docket No. : 13710-4001

CLAIMS:

1-6. Cancelled.

7. (Currently Amended) A battery storage apparatus comprising ~~a housing, said housing comprising:~~

(a) a first non-conductive sleeve having an open end, a terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the terminal end, said first sleeve dimensioned to conform closely to and receive a first end of a battery, the length of said first sleeve being shorter than the length of said battery, thereby allowing an exposed end of said battery to extend from said first sleeve when said battery is inserted therein, said first sleeve adapted to snugly fit over an inserted portion of said battery;

(b) a second non-conductive sleeve having an open end, a terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the terminal end, said second sleeve being dimensioned to conform closely to and receive the exposed end of said battery, the length of said second sleeve being less than or substantially equal to the length of said exposed end of said battery, said second sleeve adapted to snugly fit over at least a portion of said exposed end of said battery;

and

(c) said first sleeve and said second sleeve being in a non-sealed relationship with each other when said battery is inserted therein;

(d) wherein the terminal end of said first sleeve defines a first aperture in alignment with said first end of any battery that can be inserted into or removed from said first sleeve, said first aperture being large enough for air to pass through while a battery is being inserted or removed from said cavity; and

(e) wherein the terminal end of said second sleeve defines a second aperture in alignment with the exposed end of any battery that can be inserted into or removed from said first sleeve, said second aperture being large enough for air to pass through while a battery is being inserted or removed from said cavity, wherein each

Applicant : Ernest R. Chacon
Appl. No. : 10/638,159
Examiner : Helen OK Chu
Docket No. : 13710-4001

aperture is adapted to substantially prevent conductive items from contacting the terminals on said battery.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The A battery storage apparatus of claim 7, wherein~~
comprising:

(a) a first non-conductive sleeve that defines more than one cavity, each cavity having an open end, a terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the terminal end, each of said cavities being dimensioned to conform closely to and receive a battery, the length of said first sleeve being shorter than the length of said battery, thereby allowing an exposed end of said battery to extend from said first sleeve when said battery is inserted therein, said first sleeve adapted to snugly fit over said inserted portion of said battery;

(b) a second non-conductive sleeve that defines more than one cavity, each cavity with an open end, a terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the terminal end, said second sleeve being dimensioned to conform closely to and receive the exposed end of said battery, the length of said second sleeve being ~~less than or~~ substantially equal to the length of said exposed end of said battery, said second sleeve adapted to snugly fit over at least a portion of said exposed end of said battery;

and

(c) said first sleeve and said second sleeve being in a non-sealed relationship with each other when the battery is inserted therein;

(d) wherein each of the terminal ends of the first sleeve define a first aperture, each of the first apertures being in alignment with any battery that can be inserted into or removed from a corresponding one of said more than one cavity, said first aperture being large enough for air to pass through while a battery is being inserted or removed from said cavity; and

(e) wherein the terminal ends of said second sleeve define a second aperture, each

Applicant : Ernest R. Chacon
Appl. No. : 10/638,159
Examiner : Helen OK Chu
Docket No. : 13710-4001

of the second apertures being in alignment with any battery that can be inserted into a corresponding one of said more than one cavity, said second aperture being large enough for air to pass through while a battery is being inserted or removed from said cavity, and
(f) wherein each of said first apertures and said second apertures is adapted to substantially prevent conductive items from contacting the terminals on said battery.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 9 7, wherein said aperture has a diameter smaller than a diameter of a battery terminal, thereby impeding contact of conductive items with a battery terminal.

12. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim ~~40~~ 8, wherein said aperture has a diameter smaller than a diameter of a battery terminal, thereby impeding contact of conductive items with a battery terminal.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A battery storage apparatus comprising ~~a housing, said housing comprising:~~
a non-conductive sleeve having an open end, a terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the terminal end, said sleeve dimensioned to conform closely to and receive a battery, said sleeve

Applicant : Ernest R. Chacon
Appl. No. : 10/638,159
Examiner : Helen OK Chu
Docket No. : 13710-4001

adapted to snugly fit over an inserted portion of said battery, wherein the terminal end of said sleeve defines an aperture in alignment with said first end of any battery that can be inserted into or removed from said sleeve, said aperture being large enough for air to pass through while a battery is being inserted or removed from said cavity, the length of said sleeve being substantially the same length of said battery, wherein said battery storage apparatus allows immediate retrieval of said battery without compromising the integrity of the housing.

15. (Currently Amended) A battery storage apparatus ~~comprising a housing, said housing comprising:~~
- (a) a first non-conductive sleeve having an open end, a terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the terminal end, said first sleeve dimensioned to conform closely to and receive a battery, the length of said first sleeve being shorter than the length of said battery, thereby allowing an exposed end of said battery to extend from said first sleeve when said battery is inserted therein, said first sleeve adapted to snugly fit over an inserted portion of said battery;
 - (b) a second non-conductive sleeve having an open end, a terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the terminal end, said second sleeve being dimensioned to conform closely to and receive the exposed end of said battery, the length of said second sleeve being shorter than the length of said exposed end of said battery, said second sleeve adapted to snugly fit over at least a portion of said exposed portion of said battery; and
 - (c) wherein said first sleeve and said second sleeve being in a non-sealed relationship with each other when the battery is inserted therein;
 - (d) wherein the terminal end of said first sleeve defines a first aperture in alignment with said first end of any battery that can be inserted into or removed from said first

Applicant : Ernest R. Chacon
Appl. No. : 10/638,159
Examiner : Helen OK Chu
Docket No. : 13710-4001

sleeve, said first aperture being large enough for air to pass through while a battery is being inserted or removed from said cavity; and

(e) wherein the terminal end of said second sleeve defines a second aperture in alignment with the exposed end of any battery that can be inserted into or removed from said first sleeve, said second aperture being large enough for air to pass through while a battery is being inserted or removed from said cavity, wherein each aperture is adapted to substantially prevent conductive items from contacting the terminals on said battery.

16. (Previously Presented) The battery storage apparatus of claim 14, wherein a non-conductive sleeve defines more than one cavity, each cavity having an open end, a terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the terminal end, each of said cavities being dimensioned to conform closely to and receive a battery, the length of said sleeve being substantially the length of said battery.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A battery storage apparatus ~~comprising of claim 15;~~
wherein

- (a) the first non-conductive sleeve defines more than one cavity, each cavity having an open end, a terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its entire length from the open end to the terminal end, each of said cavities being dimensioned to conform closely to and receive a battery, the length of said first sleeve being shorter than the length of said battery thereby allowing an exposed end of said battery to extend from said first sleeve when said battery is inserted therein, said first sleeve adapted to snugly fit over an inserted portion of said battery; and
- (b) the second non-conductive sleeve defines more than one cavity, each cavity with an open end, a terminal end, and a substantially constant cross section along its

Applicant	:	Ernest R. Chacon
Appl. No.	:	10/638,159
Examiner	:	Helen OK Chu
Docket No.	:	13710-4001

entire length from the open end to the terminal end, said second sleeve being dimensioned to conform closely to and receive the exposed end of said battery, the length of said second sleeve being shorter than the length of said exposed end of said battery or batteries, said second sleeve adapted to snugly fit over at least a portion of said exposed portion of said battery;

(c) said first sleeve and said second sleeve being in a non-sealed relationship with each other when the battery is inserted therein;

(d) wherein each of the terminal ends of the first sleeve define a first aperture, each of the first apertures being in alignment with any battery that can be inserted into or removed from a corresponding one of said more than one cavity, said first aperture being large enough for air to pass through while a battery is being inserted or removed from said cavity;

(e) wherein the terminal ends of said second sleeve define a second aperture, each of the second apertures being in alignment with any battery that can be inserted into a corresponding one of said more than one cavity, said second aperture being large enough for air to pass through while a battery is being inserted or removed from said cavity, and

(f) wherein each of said first apertures and said second apertures is adapted to substantially prevent conductive items from contacting the terminals on said battery.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim ~~48~~ 14, wherein said aperture has a diameter smaller than a diameter of a battery terminal, thereby

Applicant : Ernest R. Chacon
Appl. No. : 10/638,159
Examiner : Helen OK Chu
Docket No. : 13710-4001

impeding contact with a battery terminal.

21. (Currently Amended) The battery storage apparatus of claim 49 15, wherein said apertures ~~has~~ have a diameter smaller than a diameter of a battery terminal thereby impeding contact with a battery terminal.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) The battery storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein said apertures have a diameter smaller than a diameter of a battery terminal thereby impeding contact with a battery terminal.

24. (New) The battery storage apparatus of claim 17, wherein said apertures have a diameter smaller than a diameter of a battery terminal thereby impeding contact with a battery terminal.